

AS IT WAS THEN, SO IT IS NOW

Isaiah 7:14; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

(Not entirely original with me)

Introduction: God made a promise at the very beginning of human history that one day He was going to send a redeemer and all through the Old Testament God reminded prophets of that promise and gave them more information, even as to where the redeemer/Messiah was to be born/appear. When that marvelous even happened, nobody was expecting it to happen and an angel had to make the announcement to some shepherds. Nobody expected the first coming of God's Son, Jesus. He has come and gone and has promised to come back again but it seems that compared to the millions of unbelievers in the world today, not all that many are expecting Him to return anytime soon.

I. THE FIRST TIME JESUS CAME

1. The first time God's Son came, He came by way of being born of a woman and no one say Him come into this world. However the next time God's Son comes, "*...every eye shall see Him...*"
2. The first time Jesus came, He came as a Lamb, but the next time Jesus comes it will be as a lion, the Lion of the tribe of Judah.
3. The first time Jesus came, He came to redeem, but the next time Jesus comes, He is coming to reign.
4. The first time Jesus came, He came to die, but the next time Jesus comes, He is going to raise the dead.
5. The first time Jesus came people asked, "*...Where is He that is born King of the Jews?...*" but the next time Jesus comes, He is coming as the KING of KINGS.
6. The first time Jesus came, He got a crown of thorns, but the next time Jesus comes, He will get a crown of glory and of gold. (*Revelation 14:14*)
7. The first time Jesus came, He came in poverty to a stable, but the next time Jesus comes He is coming in power.
8. The first time Jesus came, He had an escort of angels but the next time Jesus come, "*...He cometh with ten thousand of His Saints...*"
9. The first time Jesus came, He came in meekness, but the next time Jesus comes, He is coming in Majesty.

II. WHAT SHOULD THE BELIEVER BE DOING WHILE WAITING?

The outlook of the world is dark concerning the Lord's return, but to look up for Him is glorious. The KING is Coming!

1. Believers can witness. *"..The Gospel must be preached to all nations..."*
2. Believers need to be giving. *"...My reward is with Me..." (Revelation 22:12)*
3. Believers need to be patient. *"...Be patient, therefore, brethren, unto the coming of the Lord..."*
4. Believers need to live holy lives. *"...He that hath this hope in HIM, purifieth him/herself..."*
5. Ever see an ugly, dirty bride? Will Jesus' bride be dirty? If the Lord came right now, would He find His bride, the Church impure and stained with worldliness?
- *"...The bride hath made herself ready..." (Revelation 19:7)*
6. We need a mighty cleansing revival in the Church to prepare the way for our Lord.
7. *"...He which testifieth these things saith surely I come quickly..."*
8. Christian, Church, are YOU ready for the Lord's coming?
9. THE KING IS COMING! The Spirit and the Bride say COME!

CONCLUSION:

1. HE came as was foretold and nobody was ready and few believed
2. HE is coming again as it has been written, even promised by His very own words.
3. Who will be expecting Him? Who will be ready for Him? Who is anxious for Him to return?
4. Jesus is coming back for His own, those who have believed in Him, are you one of those?
5. Are you REALLY expecting Jesus to come back in YOUR generation? Right now? What if He did?